



Licensing Board
TOWN OF WATERTOWN
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
149 Main Street
Watertown, Massachusetts 02472

TEL. (617) 972-6486
FAX (617) 972-6595

BOARD MEMBERS
DONNA B. DOUCETTE
GEORGE B. NEWMAN
ROBERT J. WHITNEY

ALTERNATE MEMBER
SANDRA KASABIAN HOFFMAN

Minutes February 20, 2014

1. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: January 16, 2014 Approved 3-0
2. China Rainbow, Inc.
36-38 North Beacon Street
Alteration of Premise Approved 3-0
3. New Rotary Grille, Inc.
d/b/a Verona Restaurant
18 Mt. Auburn Street
Status Hearing Continued to March 20, 2014
4. MJLK, Inc. d/b/a 21 Nickels
21 Nichols Ave.
a. Show Cause Continued to March 20, 2014
b. Show Cause Continued to March 20, 2014

Donna B. Doucette, Chairman

7:28 PM to 8:00 PM

Present: Donna B. Doucette, Robert J. Whitney, Sandra Kasabian Hoffman

1. China Rainbow, Inc.
36-38 North Beacon Street
Watertown, MA 02472

The Watertown Licensing Board met to consider the application of China Rainbow, Inc. for approval of alteration of its premises at 36-38 North Beacon Street licensed for all alcohol common victualler service.

Tammy Young, president, appeared in support of the application. Ms. Young stated it had been over 40 years since the restaurant had been renovated. There will be improvements to the walls and ceilings. The work will take approximately four weeks. Plans have been prepared by an architect, and she has conferred with the Building Department. The restaurant will be closed during the renovations, which are mostly cosmetic. Work will begin as soon as the ABCC approves the alteration.

Board chairman Doucette noted that the licensee must notify the Board when the work begins, for approval of closure of the premises.

Sgt. Grady reported that the Police Department had no objection to the alterations, provided the conditions stated below were imposed. The Health Department reported that the licensee must contact the department and comply with department provisions including, but not limited to: food establishment plan review application and sushi variance request.

The Licensing Board voted unanimously to approve alteration of the licensed premises, to include renovations to the kitchen, bar area, dining room, restrooms, entrances and exits, subject to the following conditions:

1. The hours of operation will remain at Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. and Sunday 12 noon to 12 midnight.
 2. The seating shall be limited to 60, as shown on the plan submitted ("Floor Plan – China Rainbow" dated 2-15-14 by Construction Design Services).
 3. All other conditions of the license shall remain in place.
2. New Rotary Grille, Inc.
d/b/a Verona Restaurant
c/o Agostino Farese
20 Fayette Street
Watertown, MA 02472

The Watertown Licensing Board held a status hearing regarding New Rotary Grille, Inc. d/b/a Verona Restaurant, holder of an all alcohol common victualler license issued for exercise at 18 Mount Auburn Street. The status hearing was continued from a hearing on January 16, 2014, which was scheduled after a status hearing held on December 19, 2013 following a show cause hearing concluded on November 21, 2013 and concerning the closure of the licensed premises.

Agostino Farese appeared on behalf of the licensee. He stated that an application for transfer of the license issued for exercise at the subject property had been submitted.

Board clerk Donna Gill confirmed that the transfer application would be scheduled for hearing at the Board's March, 2014 meeting.

The Licensing Board voted to continue the matter to March 20, 2014 for a further status hearing.

The status hearing will be held on March 20, 2014 at 7:15 p.m. in the Philip Pane Hearing Room, Administration Building, 149 Main Street, Watertown, MA.

3. MJLK, Inc.
d/b/a 21 Nickels
c/o Michael J. Moran
67 Burton Street
Brighton, MA 02135

The Watertown Licensing Board held a continued session of a show cause hearing on the matter of the closure of your premises at 21 Nichols Avenue licensed for all alcohol common victualler service and your failure to comply with the conditions of the Board's approval of that closure. The matter had been continued from June 20, July 18, August 15, September 19, October 17, November 21, December 19, 2013 and January 16, 2014, and the proceedings from the sessions held on those dates are described in the Board's Notices of Action and Continuance dated July 10, August 7, August 23, October 4, November 1, December 2, 2013, January 7 and January 31, 2014.

Attorney Paul Rufo appeared on behalf of the licensee, together with Michael Moran, president. Attorney Rufo presented a letter to the Board dated February 20, 2014. That letter stated that the licensee had entered into a non-binding letter of agreement for sale of the license and a long-term lease of the premises. Aysha Gurdal was present on behalf of the prospective buyer. Attorney Rufo stated that the parties' plan was to submit a transfer application by March 5. Ms. Gurdal stated that she has had multiple contractors view the licensed premises to evaluate the required improvements for the planned new restaurant.

In response to a question from the Board, Mr. Moran stated that if the present sale plan did not succeed, he would consult with his counsel and his business partners. He acknowledged he had not thought that far ahead. He added that he had spent a lot of time working on the property to put it in order for a new business. He noted that the proposed restaurant concept is different from the 21 Nickels restaurant concept.

The Licensing Board voted to continue the matter to March 20, 2014, subject to the condition that if the ABCC transfer application has been filed and contracts for a transfer are in place, the licensee need not appear. Verification of the documentary requirements may be submitted by written confirmation.

The continued hearing will be held on March 20, 2014 at 7:15 p.m. in the Philip Pane Hearing Room, Administration Building, 149 Main Street, Watertown, MA.

4. MJLK, Inc.
d/b/a 21 Nickels
c/o Michael J. Moran
67 Burton Street
Brighton, MA 02135

The Watertown Licensing Board has continued the show cause hearing concerning the violation of Section IV.C.1.b of the Rules and Regulations of the Watertown Licensing Board, which requires that a restaurant authorized to sell alcohol on Sundays submit an annual report, by May 1 of each year, confirming that the licensed establishment derives 60% or more of its gross revenues from the sale of food, to wit: your failure to submit an annual report for 2012. The matter had previously been continued from June 20, July 18, August 15, September 19, October 17, November 21, December 19, 2013 and January 16, 2014, and the proceedings from the sessions held on those dates are described in the Board's Notices of Action and Continuance dated July 10, August 7, August 23, October 4, and November 1, 2013 and the Notices of Continuance dated December 2, 2013, January 7 and January 31, 2014.

The continued hearing will be held on March 20, 2014 at 7:15 p.m. in the Philip Pane Hearing Room, Administration Building, 149 Main Street, Watertown, MA.